

REMARKS

Claims 6-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 6-19 have been presented herewith. Claims 1-5 have been canceled.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119

Applicants note the Examiner's acknowledgment of the Claim for Priority under 35 U.S.C. 119, and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Information Disclosure Statement as filed along with the present application on December 9, 2003, has been deemed to fail to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3), because a concise explanation of relevance was not provided for Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-244676. Accordingly, enclosed is an English translation of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-244676. Also enclosed is a courtesy copy of the Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-A820 submitted along with the above noted Information Disclosure Statement. **The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the English translation, and to confirm that Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-244676 has been considered and will be cited of record in the present application.**

Claim Objections

Claims 1-5 have been objected to in view of the informalities as listed on page 2 of the current Office Action. Claims 1-5 have been canceled. Claims 6-19 as presented herewith conform with current U.S. practice. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw this objection to the claims.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Tubman et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,820,384). This rejection, insofar as it may pertain to the presently pending claims, is traversed for the following reasons.

The mobile karaoke device of claim 6 includes in combination a memory “that stores karaoke contents including karaoke event data in time order and song data, the song data having synchronization data embedded therein”; a sound generator “that plays sound responsive to the song data”; and a multimedia processor “that provides the song data to said sound generator, and that executes karaoke events according to the karaoke event data”. As further featured, “said sound generator responding to receipt of the synchronization data embedded within the song data by sending an interrupt signal to said multimedia processor, said multimedia processor executing the karaoke events in time order in synchronization responsive to receipt of the interrupt signal”. Applicants respectfully submit that the Tubman et al. reference as relied upon by the Examiner does not disclose these features.

The Tubman et al. reference relates to a method and system that uses acoustical prompting during karaoke performances, rather than visual prompting. As described beginning in column 2, line 56 of the Tubman et al. reference, an acoustically supplied prompt is provided instead of a visual one. Musical lyrics are presented to a karaoke participant using a prompt which leads in time the vocal associated with the musical accompaniment. The prompt includes relatively short segments of the lyrics (words) of a vocal of a song, whereby the segments are audibly acoustically communicated to the participant immediately preceding the moment in which the respective segment (vocal line) of the vocal is to be sung. Responsive thereto, the participant simply sings the words he/she has just heard. That is, the prompt is an acoustically-supplied spoken prompt presented to the participant via earphones or small loud speakers placed adjacent to the participant's ears. The karaoke participant may thus perform without being limited to the location of a video monitor, and without remaining focused on visual prompts.

The Examiner has particularly relied upon on column 3, lines 15-26 and column 5, lines 57-67 of the Tubman et al. reference as disclosing the features of the claims. However, the above noted portions of the Tubman et al. reference as specifically relied upon by the Examiner do not describe or disclose a sound generator that responds to receipt of synchronization data embedded within song data by sending an interrupt signal to a multimedia processor, and does not describe or disclose a multimedia processor that subsequently executes karaoke events in time order in synchronization

responsive to receipt of the interrupt signal. Particularly, the Tubman et al. reference as specifically relied upon by the Examiner does not disclose providing an interrupt signal in accordance with synchronization data embedded in song data, and executing karaoke events responsive to the interrupt signal. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the mobile karaoke device of claim 6 distinguishes over the Tubman et al. reference as relied upon by the Examiner, and that this rejection, insofar as it may pertain to claims 6-12, is improper for at least these reasons.

With regard to previously pending claim 5, the Examiner has asserted that column 4, lines 35-50 of the Tubman et al. reference discloses events that can be divided into a number of event zones by executing a reset event. However, column 4, lines 35-50 of the Tubman et al. reference as specifically relied upon by the Examiner merely describes that multiple tracks are recorded, that the tracks may be recorded in different language, and that it is contemplated that the system could be used in an educational or instructional setting for teaching formative bilingual skills. The above noted portion of the Tubman et al. reference as specifically relied upon does not appear to disclose dividing event zones, or doing so by executing a reset event. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 8 distinguishes over the Tubman et al. reference as relied upon by the Examiner, and that this rejection, insofar as it may pertain to claim 8, is improper for at least these additional reasons.

The mobile karaoke service method of claim 13 includes in combination "storing karaoke contents including karaoke event data in time order and song data, the song

data having synchronization data embedded therein”; “playing sound responsive to the song data”; “generating an interrupt signal responsive to the synchronization data embedded within the song data”; and “executing the karaoke events in time order in synchronization responsive to generation of the interrupt signal”.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Tubman et al. reference as relied upon by the Examiner does not specifically disclose generating an interrupt signal responsive to synchronization data embedded within sound data, and subsequently executing karaoke events in time order in synchronization responsive to generation of the interrupt signal. The mobile karaoke service method of claim 13 thus distinguishes over the Tubman et al. reference as relied upon by the Examiner for at least somewhat similar reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection, insofar as it may pertain to claims 13-19, is improper for at least these reasons. Applicant also respectfully submits that the Tubman et al. reference as specifically relied upon by the Examiner does not disclose karaoke event data that is divided into a number of event zones by executing a reset event, as featured in claim 15.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding rejection, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for at least the above reasons.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. J. Telesz, Jr.', followed by a checkmark.

Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.
Registration No. 33,581

One Freedom Square
11951 Freedom Drive, Suite 1260
Reston, Virginia 20190
Telephone No.: (571) 283-0720
Facsimile No.: (571) 283-0740

Enclosures: English translation of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-244676
Courtesy copy of Information Disclosure Citation Form